

**MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES (GOCI)
MARYLAND COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS (MCIA)**

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY MEETING: February 2, 2009

**Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
7:00 - 9:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Present

Chairwoman Auriel Fenwick
Vice-Chair Thomas Windsor, II
Kathryn E. Robbins Fitzhugh
David Holland
Wanda Y. Lee
Guy Wells

Commissioners Absent

Virginia Busby
Cornelius Allen Red Deer

MCIA Staff

E. Keith Colston
Agnes M. Smith

- I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: COMMISSIONER/CHAIR AURIEL FENWICK**-Meeting commenced at 7:15 p.m.
- II. INVOCATION: COMMISSIONER WANDA Y. LEE**
- III. READING/APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MINUTES READ BY COMMISSIONER DAVID CULLEN HOLLAND. *MOTION TO ACCEPT NOVEMBER'S MINUTES: COMMISSIONER KATHRYN E. ROBBINS FITZHUGH***
- SECONDED MOTION TO ACCEPT NOVEMBER'S MINUTES: VICE CHAIR THOMAS W. WINDSOR II***
- IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KEITH COLSTON** spoke about the different events he attended during the month of November which is American Indian Heritage Month. He attended events in Maryland, Washington DC and Virginia. Executive Director Colston also had a meeting with Ms. Rita Aweni of the U.S. Census Bureau. The Commission is in partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau to make sure that there is a complete count of the American Indian communities. Executive Director Colston spoke about the New American Council ceremony and inaugural meeting. He is meeting with Ms. Cheryl Hill to discuss/plan capacity building workshop for Native Americans on the Eastern Shore this spring.

- V. **UNFINISHED OLD BUSINESS: REPATRIATION PROCESS:** **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KEITH COLSTON** said that he attended the last Repatriation Meeting where they are trying to work out differences about the 139 remains. There will be a public meeting in February and March where the public will be able to voice their opinions.

Mr. Rico Newman informed the Commission that there has been some process on what to do with the 139 remains. The scientific community can render a great amount of information about the remains. They must however abide by State laws. The community does not want the bodies resumed and tested like the scientific community does. The body has nine months to present a plan to the Secretary. There is a time frame put on the scientific community. It was suggested that the remains go back where they came from. The future concern is how will the remains be treated when found.

CHAIR FENWICK wanted clarification as to whether other areas could be destroyed for research. Yes, according to State law. However the Native American Graves and Repatriation Act (NAGRA) will be amended in 2009. There will have to be some changes made to State and Federal laws. The State can do what it likes but has placed itself under NAGRA laws. The State wants to have the remains placed in some sort of container, but the community does not want that. The remains was placed in the earth to return to the earth. It was noted that the Maryland Historical Trust amended the law that the State gave the Commission. NAGRA is a means to require that the human remains be returned. The next Public meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 21, 2009.

SWEAT LODGE: COMMISSIONER GUY WELLS had nothing to report at this time.

EDUCATION: COMMISSIONER LEE said that a draft letter to the superintendent is almost finished. It indicates all the tribes in the State as well as what the State should teach the children about Native Tribes in state. She will send out the letter before the weekend. She will be contacting the superintendents and social study heads. They need to work in conjunction with Committee and accept their expertise. The Committee want to present a curriculum that will be helpful. Commissioner Lee noted that some of the material is on the website. Chair Fenwick noted that the curriculum needs to be approved one year prior to acceptance. The package need to be prepared for the March meeting.

Mr. Newman told the Commission that Baltimore County is the only school system left with an American Indian Education Program. Bearclaw noted that there should not be a price tag on education. He teaches beadwork at no charge. Commissioner Lee spoke about Dr. Grasnick receiving recognition about the test score increases.

- VI. **NEW BUSINESS: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COLSTON** would like for the community to give the Commission dates on what they are doing for the year such as pow-wows, meetings, health fairs, tribal meetings, etc. This would be a great way to reach out. This will also help with the needs assessments of communities.
- VII. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Robin Stokes Smith, Harford County, Primary Care Clinic for the uninsured and the under-insured. They have three themes: Recognition,

Repatriation and Education. It was noted that Commissioner Cornelius Red Deer will contact Ms. Stokes.

Dr. Henry Westburg, State Suicide Prevention Conference, spoke about Native Americans having the highest rate of suicide. He wants to get the hotline out to community: 1-800-422-0009. The annual conference is held in October. They have 1.5 million dollar grant to outreach to youth to prevent suicide. They will have a series of grants available to 8th – 12 grades. The Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline number is 410-402-8494. The 21st Annual Suicide Prevention Conference will be held on October 7, 2009 at Martins West.

Ms. Lisa Coverington, Suicide Prevention Education Awareness for Kids (SPEAK) started in 1999 when her sister shot herself. In Maryland there are 503 completed suicides. Legislation has passed for bullying. Her website is: www.speakforthem.org. Ms. Coverington will provide packages to Executive Colston for future meetings.

There was a discussion about the Speakers Bureau database. It will be put on website and possibly have an area where you can put in a application, add photo, etc. We need to be very cautious about who is sent out to do presentations, especially lectures. Also, when you fill out application, please let the Commission know if there is a cost associated with your services. Ceremonies are free, but speaking engagements you can charge for. This is your personal choice. We want to provide as much access to the communities. You need to be Native American.

Commissioner Lee spoke about her mother who is old but could be a storyteller. She lived the lifestyle and can give great oral history.

It was noted that the Annual Report points out all contacts for 2008. It also has a directory of resources.

Executive Director Israel (Izzy) Patoka, Governor's Office of Community Initiatives informed the Commission that the Governor has launched a web problem solver at www.maryland.gov. There is a guide and link to resources across the State.

Executive Director Colston announced the upcoming 25th Annual Volunteer Awards. Nomination forms were available and people are to grab as many as they can. Show achievements of our people and let them know we are here. The Baltimore American Indian Association (BAIA) has been in existence for 50 years and the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs has been in existence since 1976.

Vice Chair Windsor informed the Commission that on December 13, 2008, Mr. Newman was presented with the Friends of History Award. Mr. Newman noted that historic preservation is something he holds dear in his heart. The Chesapeake Bay means just as much to him as the buildings.

Executive Colston as everyone to make sure they are counted in the 2010 Census. This is also job opportunities. Testing is being done to see where they can place people. There are multiple shifts for 13 weeks. 2010 Census data is used for grants,

charts in annual reports, education, social services, etc. There is a big increase between 1980 and 1990. 400,000 people are needed for the Eastern Shore.

Senior Executive Director David K. Lee informed the Commission that for each person counted the State will receive \$1,000 per year which is \$10,000 for ten years. If that person is not counted, that can effect road construction, education, health programs, etc. The Governor has a statewide complete count committee. Form a Native American complete count committee. Some communities do not trust the government. The Census by law cannot share information even with the President of the United States. Senior Executive Director Lee recommended a complete count committee for MCIA. This will be added to the agenda under new business at the next meeting.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eagles Nest Pow-Wow/Veterans Pow-Wow
First Full Weekend in June

Stomp Dance
Sundown – Sun-up
Flyers forthcoming

Executive Director Patoka announced that the Governor will be having three Town Hall meetings. Fliers will be sent to Commissioners.

IX, ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING: VICE CHAIR THOMAS W. WINDSOR II

SECONDED MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING: COMMISSIONER KATHRYN E. ROBBINS FITZHUGH

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.